

Agilent Ref: 10003413-1
United States Application Serial No. 09/671,966

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on an opposite surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) mounting the slide, having the previously exposed array, on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position without the array contacting the holder; and
 - (b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.
2. (Currently Amended) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a rear surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on the front surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) mounting the slide, having the previously exposed array, on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position in which the previously exposed array faces, and is spaced apart from, a backer member of the holder without the array contacting the holder; and
 - (b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the moieties are polynucleotides of different sequences.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the moieties are DNA of different sequences.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the array is read through the front side of the slide.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the array reading comprises directing a light beam through the slide from the front side and onto the array, and detecting a resulting signal from the array which has passed through the slide and out the slide front side.

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the holder has front and rear clamp sets which can be moved apart to receive the slide therebetween, and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by the clamp sets being urged against portions of the front and rear surfaces, respectively.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the holder has front and rear clamp sets which can be moved apart to receive the slide therebetween, and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by the clamp sets being urged against portions of the front and rear surfaces, respectively.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~44~~ ~~40~~ wherein the clamp sets are resiliently urged toward one another, and wherein the movable set is moved to the open position prior to mounting the slide on the holder.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 additionally comprising a control member set positioned on the holder outside the channel and wherein the control member set is moved to move the movable clamp set to the open position.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the front clamp member set is fixed to the body side portions and the rear clamp member set is movable.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the control member set is moved rearward to move the clamp member set to the open position.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the holder additionally has a body having a channel with a closed end, wherein the backer member comprises a bottom surface of the channel;

and wherein the mounting of the slide on the holder comprises sliding the slide in an

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endways direction of the channel and into the mounted position in which a leading end of the slide abuts the closed end of the channel.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein members of each of the front and rear clamp member sets are disposed on opposite sides of the channel, and wherein the mounting of the slide on the holder comprises, when the clamp member sets are in the open position, sliding the slide in an endways direction of the channel between the clamp member sets and into the mounted position.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the holder additionally has two spaced apart guides extending from the body adjacent respective sides of the channel, and wherein the slide is slid into the mounted position along the guides and in which mounted position a trailing end of the slide is positioned between the guides.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein during the mounting of the slide portions of the slide front and rear surfaces are gripped and the gripped portions used to then slides the slide into the mounted position, which gripped portions are positioned between the guides when the slide is in the mounted position.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18 additionally comprising removing the slide from the mounted position, the removing comprising gripping portions of the slide front and rear surfaces which are between the guides and using the gripped portions to slide the slide in an endways direction opposite to that during the slide mounting.

20. - 41. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

- (a) positioning a slide comprising a front side having an identification code and a rear side having an array in an array reader; and
- (b) reading the array through the front side of the positioned slide and reading the identification code from the front side of the positioned slide.

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42. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 41 wherein the identification code is a bar code.

43. (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on an opposite surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

- (a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has:
 - a body having side portions and a channel intermediate the side portions and extending in a direction between ends of the body, and
 - front and rear clamp member sets with members disposed about the channel, one set of which is fixed to the body side portions while the other set is movable to an open position away from the fixed set,
 - and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by being urged against the fixed clamp member set; and
- (b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.

44. (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a rear surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on the front surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

- (a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position in which the previously exposed array faces, and is spaced apart from, a backer member of the holder without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has:
 - a body having side portions and a channel intermediate the side portions and extending in a direction between ends of the body, the backer member comprising a bottom surface of the channel, and
 - front and rear clamp member sets with members disposed about the channel, one set of which is fixed to the body side portions while the other set is movable to an open position away from the fixed set,
 - and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by being urged against the fixed clamp member set; and

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(b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.

45. (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a rear surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on the front surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

(a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position in which the previously exposed array faces, and is spaced apart from, a backer member of the holder without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has a body having a channel with a closed end, wherein the backer member comprises a bottom surface of the channel, and wherein the mounting of the slide on the holder comprises sliding the slide in an endways direction of the channel and into the mounted position in which a leading end of the slide abuts the closed end of the channel; and

(b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.